

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9431

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T AMMAN 6561

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER - CAIRO SUMMIT

1. SUMMARY: WHEN I SAW PRIME MINISTER BADRAN TODAY ON ANOTHER SUBJECT: HE PASSED ON SOME PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF CAIRO SUMMIT. HE SAID THAT MEETING CONTINUED RAPPROACHMENT OF RIYADH. IRAQIS WERE COMPLETELY ISOLATED AND PLO WAS GENERALLY IGNORED. LITTLE PROGRESS WAS MADE BY CONFRONTATION STATES IN SECURITY RELEASE SAUDI AND GULF FUNDS TO THEM, OTHER THAN USUAL "PROMISES".
END SUMMARY.

2. BADRAN SAID HIS BASIC IMPRESSION WAS THAT CONCLAVE CONTINUED SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL LINES WORKED OUT EARLIER AT RIYADH. SADAT AND ASAD IN PARTICULAR CONTINUED TO ENHANCE NEW RELATIONSHIP. IN THAT CONNECTION, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM ME, HE SAID THAT KING HAD VERY GOOD MEETING WITH SADAT, THAT EGYPTIANS WERE SENDING NEW AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN AND THAT SADAT MENTIONED STOPPING OVER IN AMMAN ON WAY TO OR FROM HIS PLANNED TRIP TO DAMASCUS. LATTER IS TRUE, EVEN THOUGH ACCORDING TO USUAL ARAB PROTOCOL KING OWES SADAT RETURN VISIT TO EGYPT, ONE WHICH HUSSEIN HAS REFUSED TO MAKE IN THE AFTERMATH

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OF THE SINAI II ACCORDS.

3. ON THE PLO, BADRAN SAID THAT ARAFAT WAS VISIBLY ISOLATED AND THAT PALESTINIANS GOT NO MORE THAN PURELY FORMALISTIC RHETORICAL SUPPORT. ARAFAT, BADRAN SADI, PLEADED WITH SADAT THREE TIMES TO SEND EVEN A TOKEN FORCE OF 100 EGYPTIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN ARAB LEAGUE PEACEKEEPING EFFORT IN LEBANON AND SADAT REFUSED. FURTHER, SAUDI KING KHALID AT ONE POINT IS SUPPOSED GENTLY TO HAVE REMINDED ARAFAT WHEN LATTER WANTED TO CHANGE SOME CONDITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF RIYADH ACCORDS (ID SARKIS' COMMAND OF PEACE FORCES) THAT ARAFAT HAD SIGNED THE AGREEMENT AND WAS THEREFORE BOUND BY IT. BADRAN SAID THAT ONLY IRAQIS GAVE ARAFAT ANY GENUINE SUPPORT AND SAID THE OTHERS, INCLUDING ALGERIA, SOUTH YEMEN, LIBYA AND MOROCCO STAYED AWAY FROM ASSISTING ARAFAT IN THE MEETINGS.

4. BADRAN, IT SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE TO ANYONE, THOUGHT THAT ASAD HAD DONE EXTREMELY WELL AT THE CONFERENCE, ESPECIALLY IN SUCCEEDING IN HIS EFFORTS TO GET SYRIAN TROOPS IN LEBANON ALL FOLDED INTO PEACE FORCE. I ASKED BADRAN ABOUT REPORTS, MAINLY FROM ISRAELI SOURCES, THAT SYRIANS WERE ASSISTING SOME PLO FORCES TO RETURN TO SOUTH LEBANON. HE SAID HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THESE REPORTS. HOWEVER, UNDER THE CAIRO ACCORDS FEDAYEEN HAD A RIGHT TO BE PRESENT IN SOUTH LEBANON. HE THEN SAID WITH A GRIN, THAT WILL GET THEM OUT OF BEIRUT AND PUT THEM IN A POSITION WHERE THE ISRAELIS WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE GOING AFTER THEM IF THAT IS WHAT TEL AVIV WANTS TO DO.

5. TURNING TO QUESTIONS OF ARAB FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONFRONTATION STATES, I ASKED BADRAN ABOUT PROGRESS ON THAT FRONT. HE SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BUT THAT REPLIES HAD ONLY BEEN PROMISES, NO CHECKS HAD BEEN HANDED OUT. HE IS THEEFORE CONTINUING TO OPERATE ON THE NECESSARILY CONSERVATIVE ASSIMPTION THAT THERE WILL BE NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS, ALTHOUGH HERE AGAIN HE THOUGHT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE.

6. WHEN I ASKED HIM ABOUT THE SPECIAL CASE OF THE SAUDI GUARANTED FOR THE 1976 FMS CREDITS FOR JORDAN, HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH SAUDI PRINCE SULTAN ABOUT THIS QUESTION. HE SAID THAT SULTAN HAD PROMISED AN ANSWER WHEN HE MAKES A VISIT TO JORDAN ON NOVEMBER 7.

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